

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method for improving the cardiovascular function of a subject having reduced cardiovascular function comprising consisting of the administration of two to ten grams of D-ribose one to four times daily to the subject for a period of at least one week.

Claims 2 and 3 (canceled).

Claim 4. (Previously amended) A composition for improving cardiovascular function of a subject comprising consisting of an effective amount two to ten grams of D-ribose in combination with an effective amount of a vasodilator to a subject having reduced cardiovascular function for a period of at least one week.

Claim 5. (Previously amended). The composition of claim 4 wherein ~~the effective amount of D-ribose is one to 30 grams and~~ the vasodilator is L-arginine, nitroglycerin, a nitrate, a nitrite, papaverine, isoproterenol, nylidrin, isoxsuprine, nitroprusside, adensoine, xanthine, ethyl alcohol, dipyramide, hydrazlaine, minoxidil or diazoxide.

Claims 6-10 (canceled).

Claim 13. (Previously amended). A method for improving cardiac function in a subject comprising consisting of the administration of any one of the compositions of claims 11 and 12 to the subject one to four times per day for at least one week.

Claim 14. (Previously amended). A method for relieving the symptoms of peripheral vascular disease in a subject comprising consisting the administration of any one of the compositions of claims ~~5,6,7,8,9,10,11 or 12~~ 1, 4 or 5.

Claims 15-17 (canceled).